Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: With regard to the answer to (*b*) and (*c*) of the question, may I know when it fell? Is it after the question went to the House?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have no information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Is there anything in the Jail records. I have been responsible for making a very serious allegation against the Jail. I would like to know whether there is anything in the Jail records or the records of the Government to show the number of fallen trees in the Jail.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We should make detailed enquiries. Then only all these details could be known. We cannot get information simply by asking them for reports on answers to Legislative Council questions. We have to go there and look into the registers and make enquiries and go into further details before saying yes or no.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of these questions 88, 89 and 90, relating to the same subject, and having a bearing upon the very serious allegations with full responsibility I made in this House and the unpleasantness that will be created by pursuing these questions with supplementary questions, may I know from the Government whether in the light of the allegations, they will be pleased to appoint a committee to enquire into these allegations, and if they find that my allegations are true, take necessary action, and if they find my allegations are untrue, deal with me. That is the thing I want to say.

Mr. President: I have already given instructions to the Secretary to Government to visit the Jail and make a full searching enquiry and send a report (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: No better person can be selected.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether the fruits have not been sold and money realised, and whether any register exists to show the receipts from this sale?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We can find this out from the cash book as to when the money was received. That is easy to find out.

CONVICTS WORKING IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS

89. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether more than the allowed number of convicts had gone to the Superintendent's quarters in any of the months of Meenam, Medam, Edavam and Mithunam 1118;

(*b*) were convicts No. 296 and another, both good carpenters, sent for work at the Superintendents quarters in the above months?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes. Carpenters were sent to the officers' quarters including the Superintendent's quarters as also to the Warders' Lines for attending to the P.C.R. works.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know what exactly is meant by "officers' quarters" in the jail precincts? Which are these officers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There are the Jailor, Deputy Jailor and the warders. They have got official quarters there.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: An answer is given that the carpenters were sent to the quarters for attending to P. C. R. works. Is this the information supplied from the Jail.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: That is the information given by the Department.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I may be permitted to club question 90 also to this, because they are allied, and ask supplementary questions.

Mr. President: Yes, both questions may be answered.

FURNITURE—SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS IN CENTRAL JAIL

90. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are the Superintendent's quarters in the Central Jail furnished free with any furniture; if so, what are the items;

(*b*) is there not in the Superintendent's quarters now furniture worked with Jail timber and by convict carpenters?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) Not furnished.

(*b*) Yes. One ordinary dining table and 2 benches have been supplied from the carpentary section in the Central Jail and the cost thereof paid by the Superintendent himself.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether there are or not expert carpenters amongst the convicts in the jail?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Governmnet)*: Yes, there are.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: How are their services utilised by the Government.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: There is a carpentry section in the workshop and these people are made to work in that section.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: With regard to sub-section (b) of question 90, it is stated that one ordinary dining table and two benches have been supplied. May I know whether these three articles, two benches and one ordinary dining table, were worked in the jail workshop or whether at the Superintendent's quarters.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: These were supplied from the carpentry section in the Central Jail.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Can I take it that it was not worked in the Superintendent's quarters?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Has the cost thereof been paid by the Superintendent himself? If so, what is the cost please?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: It is 9 and odd rupees. Rs. 9 has been realised from the Superintendent.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: It has been stated that one ordinary dinner table has been supplied. May I know what is the quality of the timber used and may I also know the dimensions of the two benches and the table. I am suggesting that Rs. 9 is too small a price for these 3 articles and there are other things connected with it. So I ask for information as to what is the nature of this ordinary dining table and these two benches.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: They were made of jack wood, 12 thuvadas in measurement and Rs. 9 was charged.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Probably the jack fruit tree fallen, referred to in (c) of question 88, has been used for this.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Why wander in the regions of probability? Even with that probability, what is the position of the Government? Was that jack tree used for this?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have not particularly asked the Department about it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether the cost was paid after the question was put or before that?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The date is not given here. The date of supply was on 14th Meenam 1118. When exactly Rs. 9 was paid can be found out from the cash book.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In view of the satisfactory observations made here regarding a responsible officer of Government being deputedto go to enquire this matter, I do not put any further questions now. My only suggestion is that proper evidence may be taken by the Hon'ble the Government Secretary and let it not be the ordinary type of ordinary departmental enquiries.

DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COURT—RULE 26 OF THE DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

91. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has the attention of Government been drawn to the decision of the Federal Court of India declaring the detention under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules illegal;

(*b*) whether Government is aware of many a release ordered by the British Indian High Courts of detenues after the decision in (*a*)?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

92. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are the rules under which Cochinites are detained in any way different from the Rules declared *ultra vires* by the Federal Court;

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